

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2009. Claims 2-6, 8 and 16-18 are pending and stand rejected in the outstanding Office Action.

The rejection of claims 2-6, 8 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, the Examiner asserted that the limitation “the gateway including notification means for initiating an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems and transmitting over this or each such connection a notification for notifying said one or more of the application hosting sub-systems that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway when the notification means is requested so to do by any one of the services offered by the first sub-system” of claim 16, and the limitation “initiating from the notification means to the application hosting sub-system an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection and transmitting over this connection the notification for notifying said application hosting sub-system that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway” of claim 17, do not have support in the instant specification.

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner’s attention to p. 11, lines 13-16 of the instant specification. Said section recites “As a result of the processing performed by notification server 220, the notification server 220 initiates a simple (unauthenticated and unencrypted) TCP/IP connection 450 with listener 112 and transmits over this connection a notification (the nature of which will be described in greater detail below) to listener 112”. This section teaches that the

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notification means sets up an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection and then it transmits a notification message over this connection.

Moreover, p. 11, lines 18-22, of the instant specification (“Upon receipt of the notification, listener 112 forwards this notification via forward notification communication 455 to a notification processing module (not shown) within the main (client application specific) part 11 of the application 110 which processes the notification and thereby establishes that it should attempt to contact the SMS service plug-in 257”), teaches that the notification is sent as a result of being requested to do so by any of the services (e.g., the SMS service 257).

In view of the above-noted portions (pg. 11, lines 13-16 and 18-22) in the instant specification, the above-noted claim limitations are supported by the instant specification. Claims 2-6, 8 and 16-18 therefore fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The rejection of independent claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Grantges, Jr. et al. (US 6,510,464) in view of Wilding et al. (US 2005/0050329), is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledged that Grantges does not disclose the feature “the *gateway including notification means for initiating* an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems and transmitting over this or each such connection a notification for notifying said one or more of the application hosting sub-systems that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway (emphasis is added)”, and turned to Wilding for the missing limitations.

Wilding discloses a method such that a customer system 102 can establish a secure connection with an organization system 104 using a public network, allowing the customer system 102 to communicate with the organization system 104 in a secure manner, while authenticating the identity of the customer system 102 to the organization system 104 and vice versa (Fig. 1). According to the method, once the customer has registered with the server, the customer system initiates a connection, [0028]. A temporary Server Public Key is sent from the service gateway to the customer system using the TCP connection initiated by the customer system. A series of encryption packages is sent back and forth between the gateway and the customer system over this TCP connection initiated by the customer system, until a remote, secure authenticated and encrypted connection has been established between the service client 108 and the service gateway 110.

The Examiner asserted that the process “starting from the step of transmitting the Temporary Server Public Key from the service gateway 110 to the service client 108 (i.e., interpreted as a notification to verify the authenticated information); until the step of establishing secure, authenticated and encrypted connection between the service gateway 110 and the service client 108” disclosed by Wilding reads on the above missing limitation, see p. 6 of the Office Action.

The Examiner’s assertion is not true. In Wilding, it is clear from paragraph [0028] (“Once the customer has registered with the server, a remote service session can be established. Referring to FIGS. 3A-3B, a flow chart illustrating the steps for establishing a remote session is shown. In step 302, the customer system initiates a connection. The service client 108 establishes

a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) connection, or session, to the service gateway 110. This is similar to having the customer use the telnet protocol to connect to a remote system through the Internet, although the following steps ensure a much higher level of security than a telnet connection”), emphasis added, that the connection is initiated by the customer system. All the encryption packages being sent back and forth between the customer and the service gateway are sent over the TCP connection initiated by the customer system.

In contrast, claim 16 requires “*the gateway including notification means for initiating an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems*”. In other words, in the invention of claim 16, it is the gateway that initiates an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems, not the one or more of the application hosting sub-systems.

Moreover, regarding Grantges, the Examiner identified an “options page” being sent by gateway web server 44 in a message 78 to client computer 22 (Fig. 2), the “options page” presenting a list of authorized applications 24₁, 24₂...24₃ for selection by user 18 of client computer 22, as the claimed “when the notification means is requested so to do by any one of the services offered by the first sub-system”, see p. 6 of the Office Action.

However, even assuming *arguendo* (which Applicant does not believe to be the case) that message 78 including an “options page” corresponds to “notification means”, this cannot be interpreted as it being requested by any one of the services offered by the first sub-system (identified as the applications 24₁, 24₂...24₃ by the Examiner), as required by claim 16. Instead,

in Grantges, the notification is requested by the user 18 (which was identified by the Examiner as the claimed application hosting sub-system).

Further, it is clear in Grantges, e.g., col. 8, lines 18-20 (“User 18, via client computer 22, through its web browser, initiates a request 64 for authentication...”), that the connection is initiated by the user. Thereafter, information is passed back and forth using the connection, but it is not initiated by the web server 44 (corresponding to the claimed gateway including notification means), as required by claim 16 (“*the gateway including notification means for initiating* an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems (emphasis is added)”).

Finally, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked into modifying Grantges in order to include notification means. In Grantges, there is no perceived need for notifications to be sent to the users 18. This is because the services provided by applications 1, 2 and 3 are conventional services adhering to a classic client/server model where servers simply respond to an input request from a client. The only mention of applications in Grantges (col. 5, lines 24-30) does not suggest that they might ever need to send a notification to a user, nor, accordingly is there any discussion of any mechanism for sending such notifications.

For the above reasons, claim 16 is allowable. Claim 17 includes limitations similar to those of claim 16 and is also allowable.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-6, 8 and 18, all dependent form claim 16 or 17, also be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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